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UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE IN HIDES AND SKINS IN 1954

The United States until recently has been a net importer of hides and skins. During 1954 exports of cattle hides exceeded imports by 4.7 million pieces. In contrast, during 1953 exports exceeded imports by 1.9 million pieces. The exports of calf and kip in 1954 exceeded the imports by 1.4 million pieces, whereas during 1953 imports exceeded exports by 324,000 pieces. Imports of goat and kid skins declined 6.7 million pieces in 1954 while net imports of sheep and lamb skins declined 4.6 million pieces.

HIDES AND SKINS: United States Foreign Trade, averages 1935-39 and 1946-50, Annual 1952-54

	Averages				
	1935-39	1946-50	1952	1953	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Calf and Kip:		Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces
Imports	3,181	1,265	1,628	1,904	1,189
Exports	555	593	794	1,580	2,567
Net Imports	2,626	672	834	324	--
Net Exports	--	--	--	--	1,378
Cattle Hides:					
Imports	2,580	1,872	1,230	455	443
Exports	533	868	1,138	2,381	5,178
Net Imports	2,047	1,004	92	--	--
Net Exports	--	--	--	1,926	4,735
Goat and Kid:					
Imports 1/	43,260	36,639	29,716	31,904	25,231
Sheep and Lamb:					
Imports	21,057	24,545	19,325	25,049	20,586
Exports	1,996	1,696	1,497	1,419	1,586
Net Imports	19,061	23,849	18,828	24,630	20,000
	:	:	:	:	:

1/ United States exports are negligible.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records
of the Bureau of Census.

IMPORTS:

United States imports of hides and skins declined appreciably in 1954. Imports of calf and kip skins decreased 38 percent compared with 1953, goat and kid skins declined 21 percent, sheep and lamb skins 18, and cattle hides 3 percent. These declines were due in part to an easier demand for hides and skins in the United States; however, in the case of cattle hides and calf and kip skins larger domestic supplies resulting from record levels of slaughter also contributed to the decline in import requirements.

The larger proportion of the imports of calf and kip skins are from Canada. This trade moves both ways across the border but imports from Canada are considerably larger than our exports to Canada.

Imports of calf skin from France in 1954 were 48 percent below 1953. In order to satisfy the demands of the French tanning industry the French Government since World War II has restricted exports of calf skins. In recent years an annual export quota has been set for calf skins of about 8.8 million pounds, salted weight, of which 40 percent was reserved for export to the United States. However, due to the easier demand situation in this country and relatively high prices in France these total quantities have not been taken by importers in this country.

United States imports of cattle hides have declined sharply since 1951. This decline may be partly due to the decline in surplus hides in South America, but the prevailing high level of cattle slaughter in the United States has reduced import requirements. This increase in domestic supplies of cattle hides along with increased competition from leather substitutes has resulted in lower prices, which in turn has attracted foreign buyers of cattle hides.

Imports of goat and kid skins in 1954 totaled 25 million pieces, 21 percent less than in 1953 and 42 percent below the 1935-39 average. This decrease reflects a decline in demand for goat and kid skins in the United States since nearly all of U.S. requirements are imported.

In 1954 imports of sheep and lamb skins totaled 18.7 million pieces, 4.4 million less than in 1953 but 1.2 million more than in 1952. During 1954 imports of pickled sheep skins were appreciably below 1953 but not greatly different from the quantities imported in 1951 and 1952. Imports of woolled sheep skins were substantially below both 1953 and previous years as a result of the low level of wool consumption in this country.

EXPORTS:

The greater part of the United States exports of hides and skins are destined for Canada, Western Europe and Japan. These areas were the recipients of more than 80 percent of our 1954 exports. Exports to Western Germany and the Netherlands increased substantially, while the relatively large shipments to Japan were not greatly different from a year earlier.

Exports of calf and kip skins increased from 1.6 million pieces in 1953 to 2.6 million in 1954; cattle hides from 2.4 million to 5.2 million and sheep and lamb skins from 419,000 to 586,000.

The increase in exports of cattle hides and calf and kip skins is principally the result of the record level of cattle and calf slaughter in the United States and consequently lower prices which attracted foreign buyers. For example, Argentina and Uruguay were the principal suppliers of cattle hides to Western Germany for many years, but a noticeable turn to the United States market occurred late in 1953. In 1954, the United States became the principal supplier of cattle hides to Western Germany. There are two main reasons for this development. First, early in 1954, quantitative restrictions on the import of cattle hide and calf skins from the dollar area were removed, and West Germany buyers hurried to take advantage of the uniform quality hides and skins which United States producers offered at competitive prices or below those prevailing on the World market. Secondly, West Germany buyers were dissatisfied with South American prices, which had been driven up by government manipulations, and by heavy purchases of the communist block countries. Late in 1954, South American hide prices declined, because of decreased communist block purchases. The important fact remains, however, that during 1954, larger numbers of West German leather manufacturers adapted their tanning processes to American hides and skins. United States hide prices continue to be competitive with world market prices.

Table 1. HIDES AND SKINS: United States Imports for Consumption by Country of Origin - Averages 1935-39, 1946-50, Annual 1952 to 1954

Country of Origin	Averages						
	1935-39		1946-50		1952		
	1,000 Pieces	1,000 Pieces	1,000 Pieces	1,000 Pieces	1,000 Pieces		
<u>Calf and Kip:</u>							
Canada	394	:	342	:	702	:	777
Denmark	4	:	8	:	37	:	38
Finland	178	:	42	:	21	:	0
France	548	:	80	:	264	:	235
Italy	19	:	33	:	10	:	45
Netherlands	76	:	16	:	37	:	39
Norway	103	:	9	:	23	:	8
Poland	92	:	57	:	201	:	309
Switzerland	25	:	10	:	3	:	39
India	67	:	168	:	119	:	129
Argentina	156	:	35	:	11	:	0
New Zealand	471	:	149	:	122	:	201
Others	1,048	:	316	:	78	:	112
Total	3,181		1,265		1,628		1,932
							1,189
<u>Cattle Hides:</u>							
Canada	550	:	419	:	343	:	303
Mexico	29	:	77	:	0	:	0
Cuba	14	:	29	:	5	:	14
France	23	:	7	:	13	:	14
Italy	17	:	16	:	8	:	11
Netherlands	5	:	2	:	26	:	7
Switzerland	7	:	1	:	2	:	13
India	22	:	11	:	80	:	71
Argentina	1,309	:	712	:	645	:	3
Brazil	400	:	216	:	18	:	5
Uruguay	55	:	65	:	15	:	0
Australia	31	:	16	:	0	:	0
New Zealand	40	:	14	:	7	:	0
Others	78	:	287	:	68	:	14
Total	2,580		1,872		1,230		455
							443
<u>Goat and Kid:</u>							
Haiti, Rep. of	385	:	674	:	514	:	594
Arabia	0	:	775	:	293	:	810
India	13,160	:	10,916	:	10,866	:	8,974
Pakistan	0	:	2,009	:	1,638	:	1,912
Argentina	2,523	:	1,232	:	283	:	955
Brazil	4,172	:	3,028	:	1,360	:	4,055
Peru	837	:	757	:	482	:	579
Venezuela	812	:	573	:	775	:	663
Br. E. Africa	726	:	2,134	:	2,735	:	2,702
Br. Somoliland	0	:	1,954	:	678	:	693
Ethiopia	682	:	3,084	:	3,135	:	2,842
							2,707

Continued

Table 1. HIDES AND SKINS: United States Imports for Consumption by Country of Origin - Averages 1935-39, 1946-50, Annual 1952 to 1954. (continued)

Country of Origin	Averages				
	: 1935-39	: 1946-50	: 1952	: 1953	: 1954
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: Pieces	: Pieces	: Pieces	: Pieces	: Pieces
Italian Africa	: 133	: 679	: 680	: 953	: 0
Nigeria	: 2,084	: 4,037	: 2,855	: 2,880	: 2,095
Un. of So. Africa	: 902	: 980	: 1,000	: 748	: 568
Others	: 16,844	: 4,807	: 2,422	: 2,544	: 3,210
Total	43,260	36,639	29,716	31,904	25,231

Sheep and Lamb:

United Kingdom	: 1,419	: 1,216	: 1,014	: 1,277	: 707
Iran	: 4	: 346	: 762	: 2,004	: 1,029
Argentina	: 4,030	: 4,175	: 581	: 2,495	: 566
Brazil	: 1,143	: 77	: 114	: 30	: 7
Un. of So. Africa	: 1,098	: 316	: 151	: 15	: 0
Australia	: 1,173	: 3,509	: 1,629	: 2,729	: 1,320
New Zealand	: 8,699	: 11,087	: 13,869	: 14,404	: 13,306
Others	: 3,491	: 3,819	: 1,205	: 2,095	: 1,835
Total	21,057	24,545	19,325	25,049	18,770

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records
of the Bureau of Census.

Table 2. HIDES AND SKINS: United States Exports by Country
of destination, Averages 1935-39 and 1946-50.
Annual 1952-54

Country of Destination	Averages		1952	1953	1954
	1935-39	1946-50			
	1,000 Pieces	1,000 Pieces			
<u>Calf and Kip</u>					
Canada	170	265	196	313	349
Belgium	10	31	28	62	106
Germany	13	39	5	53	342
Italy	6	24	36	123	136
Netherlands	25	135	17	123	515
United Kingdom	12	24	4	89	240
Japan	247	28	468	757	656
Others	72	47	40	60	223
Total	555	593	794	1,580	2,567
<u>Cattle Hides</u>					
Canada	127	278	411	430	386
Mexico	4	1/	3	63	206
Belgium	1	64	8	37	133
Germany	3	41	4	88	760
Italy	3	50	5	22	35
Netherlands	24	93	34	278	1,243
United Kingdom	37	132	3	215	431
Yugoslavia	1/	12	56	237	319
Japan	260	36	552	845	880
Others	74	162	62	166	785
Total	533	868	1,138	2,381	5,178
<u>Sheep and Lamb</u>					
Canada	3/ 1,009	505	402	343	362
Mexico	3/ 11	1	62	-	19
Belgium	3/ 11	12	-	10	0
France	3/ 38	73	31	30	79
Hungary	3/ 53	5	-	-	0
United Kingdom	80	10	--	12	60
Others	28	132	3	24	66
Total	1,230	738	498	419	586

1/ Less than 500. 2/ Includes Goat and Kid. 3/ For 1939.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records
of the Bureau of Census.

Table 3. HIDES AND SKINS: United States Imports and Exports
by type and description, averages 1935-39 and
1946-50, Annual 1952-1954

Type and Description	Averages					1953	1954
	1935-39	1946-50	1952	1953	1954		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces		
<u>Imports 1/</u>							
Calf and Kip:	3,181	1,265	1,628	1,932	1,189		
Wet salted	2,385	738	1,374	1,611	995		
Dry or dry salted	796	527	254	321	194		
Cattle Hides:	2,580	1,872	1,230	455	443		
Wet salted	2,381	1,414	997	372	325		
Dry or dry salted	199	458	233	143	118		
Goat and Kid:	43,260	36,639	29,716	31,904	25,231		
Dry or dry salted	41,518	36,067	28,460	31,127	24,411		
Green or pickled	1,742	572	1,256	777	820		
Sheep and Lamb	21,057	24,545	19,325	25,049	18,770		
Wooled dry or green salted	2,726	5,550	1,245	2,020	328		
Slats-dry	3,481	2,150	650	833	462		
Pickled-not split	14,840	15,965	16,150	19,893	16,277		
Pickled-fleshers and skivers	10	880	1,280	2,303	1,703		
<u>Exports 2/</u>							
Calf and Kip	555	593	794	1,580	2,567		
Wet salted	N.A.	547	794	1,578	2,566		
Dry or dry salted	N.A.	46	3/	2	1		
Cattle Hides:	533	868	1,138	2,381	5,178		
Wet salted	N.A.	798	1,128	2,370	5,165		
Dry or dry salted	N.A.	70	10	11	13		
Sheep and Lamb	1/ 1,996 1/	696	498	419	586		
Wet	N.A.	470	460	359	438		
Dry	N.A.	226	38	60	148		

1/ For consumption. 2/ Excludes re-exports.

3/ Less than 500 4/ Includes Goat and Kid.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from the official records of the Bureau of Census.

